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Message Text

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ACTION EUR-02

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 PA-01 INR-01 /005 W
----------151825Z 093620 /42
P R 151650Z APR 77
FM AMEMBASSY LISBON
TO USINFO WASHDC PRIORITY
INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 0975
USIA WASHDC

UNCLAS LISBON 3008

USINFO FOR IOP/M, IBS/PE/HAUSEMAN
USIA FOR IEU/MCLAUGHLIN

E.O. 11652: N/A
SUBJECT MEDIA REACTION

1. SOARES-CARTER MEETING: ON EVE OF U.S. VISIT BY PRIME MINISTER SOARES, PORTUGUESE NEWSPAPERS CONCENTRATE COVERAGE ON WHAT THEY FEEL WILL BE TOPICS FOR DISCUSSION DURING MEETING WITH PRESIDENT CARTER. CENTER-RIGHT WEEKLY O PAIS, UNDER HEADLINE: "THE 'ACE' THAT MARIO SOARES HOLDS FOR TALKS WITH CARTER," QUOTED TOP-LEVEL WASHINGTON OFFICIAL IN UNDERSCORING "IMPORTANCE" CARTER ADMINISTRATION GIVING TO VISIT. NEWSPAPER, IN UN-BYLINED PIECE, CONTINUED: VISIT OF MARIO SOARES INVOLVES WIDE RANGE OF INTERESTS THAT LINK THE U.S. TO EUROPE AND, MORE SPECIFICALLY, TO NEGOTAITIONS OF THE LAJES BASE ABOUT TO TAKE PLACE VERY SOON. ALONG SIMILAR LINES, GOVERNMENT-ORIENTED DAILY DIARIO DE NOTICIAS HEADLINED: "LAJES AND FINANCES ON THE AGENDA OF SOARES," AND NOTED THAT AZOREAN QUESTION AND CONSORTIUM LOAN "WILL BE TWO PRINCIPAL MATTERS" TO BE DISCUSSED WITH PRESIDENT CARTER. IN THEIR COVERAGE, BOTH CENTER-RIGHT O TEMPO AND PSD-ORIENTED EXPRESSO TOOK TIME TO FAVORABLY COMMENT ON U.S. SUPPORT TO GOP AND TO
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SPECULATE ON FINANCIAL ASPECTS OF UPCOMING TALKS. IN SAME TONE, SOCIALIST PARTY-ORIENTED A LUTA REMARKED THAT INCLUSION OF ECONOMIC EXPERTS AMONG PORTUGUESE OFFICIAL PARTY "IS APPARENTLY NECESSARY FOR DISCUSSIONS OF THE WELL-KNOWN INTERNATIONAL FINANCIAL AID PROJECT TO PORTUGAL WHICH IS BEING LED BY THE U.S."

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2. CONSORTIUM LOAN: POSING THE QUESTION IN PAGE-ONE HEADLINE: "HAS CREATION OF A CONSORTIUM FOR A BILLION AND A HALF FAILED?", EXPRESSO WROTE IN SEPARATE STORY APRIL 15 "THE BIG LOAN APPEARS TO BE PREJUDICED BY CONTRARY POSITIONS" OF A CERTAIN COUNTRIES PRESENTLY PARTICIPATING OR ABOUT TO PARTICIPATE. WITHOUT NAMING THE "CERTAIN COUNTRIES," EXPRESSO SAID PRIME MINISTER SOARES, WHILE IN THE U.S., WOULD SEEK A BILATERAL $600 MILLION LOAN WHICH CLAIMED THE U.S. IS PREPARED TO OFFER IF THE CONSORTIUM FOLDS. MEANWHILE, IN EARLIER ARTICLE (APRIL 14) O TEMPO STRESSED THAT GOP SECRETLY PREPARING NEW SERIES ECONOMIC MEASURES NECESSARY TO QUALIFY PORTUGAL CONSORTIUM LOAN.

3. SOVIET PROTEST: THE COMMUNIST O DIARIO REPORTED APRIL 14 THAT PRESS BUREAU OF SOVIET EMBASSY IN LISBON HAS ISSUED TO RTP, PORTUGUESE NATIONAL TELEVISION NETWORK, A PROTEST FOLLOWING TELECASTING OF A SEGMENT OF WORLD WAR II FILM SERIES WHICH BUREAU CALLED "AN INDIGNANT ATTACK AND AN INSULT TO THE MEMORY OF 20 MILLION SOVIETS WHO DIED IN THE WAR AGAINST THE NAZIS FOR THE LIBERATION OF THE PEOPLE OF EUROPE AND THE WORLD." THE BUREAU CHARGED THAT THE FILM REFLECTED VIEWPOINTS OF "INTERNATIONAL REACTIONARIES, WHICH IN OTHER TIMES CONTRIBUTED TO THE RISE OF HITLER. "IT IS ASTONISHING THAT THE PORTUGUESE NATIONAL TELEVISION, AND PARTICULARLY ITS INFORMATION DEPARTMENT, PERSISTS IN TRANSMITTING MATERIALS OF THIS TYPE AGAINST A COUNTRY WITH WHICH PORTUGAL IS MAINTAINING NUMEROUS AND
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FRIENDLY RELATIONS." THE FILM SERIES, WHICH WAS PRODUCED BY BRITISH AND GERMAN TV, WAS ALSO THE SUBJECT OF AN O DIARIO EDITORIAL APRIL 15 WHICH STRONGLY CRITICIZED RTP AND ITS NEW DIRECTOR EDMUNDO PEDRO FOR CONTINUIN WHAT IT CALLED AN PROPAGANDA CAMPAIGN AGAINST SOVIET GOVERNMENT.
THOMAS

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
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Decaption Note:
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Disposition Approved on Date:
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Disposition Comment:
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Executive Order: N/A
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Original Previous Classification: n/a
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Status: NATIVE
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TAGS: SOPN, PFOR, US, PO, (SOARES, MARIO), (CARTER, JIMMY)
To: USIA
Type: TE
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